

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 SCCT-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /089 W

----- 081248

R 280918Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0753

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO FOUR

REF: ADDIS 9721

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR REYNOLDS, UNDP REPRESENTATIVE STEDMAN AND I DISCUSSED TENNECO CASE WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR COL. BELACHEW JEMANEH MORNING AUGUST 28. I REVIEWED ENTIRE HISTORY OF CASE, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF CREATING PROBLEMS IN USG/IEG RELATIONS AND CAUSING TENNECO CEASE OPERATIONS IN OGADEN, BUT OMITTED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATING THAT ELF MAY RELEASE CAPTIVES EVEN IF IEG DOES NOT RELEASE ANY ERITREAN PRISONERS. REYNOLDS AND STEDMAN ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN, EMPHASIZING NEED FOR SPEEDY ACTION BECAUSE OF LENGTHY DETENTION TENNECO FOUR. ALL THREE OF US EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CURRENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ERITREA WOULD FACILITATE RELEASE OF ERITREAN PRISONERS IN QUESTION.

2. AFTER EXPRESSING APOLOGIES FOR NOT MEETING WITH US LAST WEEK, COL. BELACHEW SAID HE WANTED TENNECO TO INFORM INTERMEDIARY THAT IEG NEEDED A PRECISE INDICATION OF WHICH PRISONERS ON THE LIST OF FIFTY HAD TO BE RELEASED IN ORDER TO EFFECT RELEASE OF THE
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TENNECO CAPTIVES. THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY A STALLING TACTIC AND MY

COLLEAGUES AND I CRITICIZED IT SO THOROUGHLY THAT COL. BELACHEW QUICKLY ABANDONED IT. HE THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD CABLE ASMARA TODAY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THE RECORDS OF THE FIFTY PRISONERS, AND PROMISED AFTER THIS INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT RESOLVE ISSUE WITH THE AFCC AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED. WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT INFORMATION ON PRISONERS RECORDS WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE HE SAID THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAD NOT RECEIVED PRISONER LIST UNTIL AUGUST 26.

3. COMMENT. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT COL. BELACHEW IS ONLY BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON THIS PROBLEM AND THAT ANY GOVERNMENT DECISION REGARDING RELEASE OF SOME PRISONERS IS NOT LIKELY FOR SOME TIME. IN MEANTIME WE WILL PROBABLY DISCOVER WHETHER ELF HAS DECIDED TO RELEASE THE TENNECO FOUR WITHOUT ANY CORRESPONDING RELEASE OF ERITREAN PRISONERS. BOGAN IS OPTIMISTIC ON THIS SCORE AND IS RETURNING KHARTOUM TODAY IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH ZEIN PRIOR SEPTEMBER 1.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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